

Anthony Butler to Andrew Jackson, August 12, 1832, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

COLONEL ANTHONY BUTLER TO JACKSON.

Mexico City, August 12, 1832.

. . . . Gen. Musquiz it is understood will have a new Cabinet as soon as he is inducted into office, which is two days hence; of course the Affair of Texas must rest until the new men take office, and until an opportunity is afforded me for ascertaining the character of the Cabinet, and from whence I may very probably infer the result. I am fortunate in being on the best terms with every Gentlemen in Mexico of that class out of which the Secretary of State must be taken. if however he is selected from 32 without the Capital, I shall have to study his character before my approaches are made, and that will necessarily require a little time. If Mr. Alaman could have continued in Office three months longer we should have settled every thing. the War, the exhausted State of the Treasury, the cutting off their resources from Commerce, and the great want of money afforded us the best grounds on which to justify whatever arrangement we might have entered into. He must be made useful still. His indisposition has not yet permitted him to leave his Chamber, but he wrote me yesterday, that he meant to ride as far as my House in three or four days.

The utter bankruptcy of the Government may at this moment make a few Millions desirable; they shall be tempted as soon as I can know before whom the offer is to be laid; but my great fear is that the sum will be considered too small, and that while we are debating upon the price and terms better times may arrive, and relieve them from the present pressure, or that an Administration may be formed of Men with opinions and feelings altogether hostile to such a proposition. All this you will say should make me

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zealous and prompt, neither wasting time, nor be wanting in exertion: Depend on me My dear Sir that you, *even you* , have not this thing so much at heart as I have. interest, as well as the laudable ambition of discharging efficiently the duties that devolve on me, alike impel and stimulate me; my best hopes are staked on the result. It is my wish to reside in that Country, and to do so, it must be ours; because I cannot consent to become a citizen of this Governmt. and there is no other alternative, so you may estimate very fairly the quantum of personal interest I take in the subject independent of that arising from the desire of success as a Diplomatist. Besides and [in] addition you must know the anxiety which I feel to be useful not only to my Country, but to contribute to the reputation of the Administration of one who for more than 20 years I have esteemed as one of my dearest friends and by whom I have stood unwavering through good and through evil report, yielding him on all occasions the whole weight of my support, taxing to their fullest extent all my moral energies—of such an one, and after such a trial, I presume no doubts can be entertained. Wishing you success (which I do not doubt you will have) in the approaching Canvas I remain

My dear Sir with great respect and all truth